

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-09 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-07 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10

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R 141215 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1471

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION GENEVA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SNAR, IR

SUBJECT: UPDATED NARCOTICS ACTION PLAN

REF: STATE 043872

1. MISSION APPRECIATES QUICK APPROVAL OF SUBSTANCE OF UPDATED ACTION

PLAN. REPLIES TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON PORTIONS OF TEHRAN 814 CITED IN REFTEL FOLLOW.

2. RE PARA 6(A). WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT WISE TO MAKE ANY MAJOR ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOI ON UPGRADING ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES

UNTIL VAQUIPMENT IT HAS OBTAINED AT OUR URGING HAS BEEN PUT IN SERVICE AND PROVEN ITSELF IN ACTION. GENDARMERIE (IIG) WHICH CARRIES MAJOR BURDEN OF ANTI- SMUGGLING WORK IS FACED WITH TASK OF INTEGRATING INTO ITS TOE NOT ONLY NEW ANTI- SMUGGLING EQUIPMENT BUT ALSO NEW WEAPONS TO IMPROVE ITS ABILITY TO GUARD WESTERN BORDER AGAINST FREQUENT IRAQI INCURSIONS. IIG ALREADY HAS AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR UPGRADING HELICOPTER AND COASTAL CAPABILITIES. WE EXPECT OUR MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS IN EXT FEW MONTHS WILL BE ON IMPROVING ORGANIZATION (E. G. SUGGESTION THAT IIG STAFF NARCOTICS BUREAU WITH SMALL PERMANENT CIVILIAN CADRE NOT SUBJECT TO ROTATION EXPECTED

OF UNIFORMED OFFICERS, AND THAT IIG, NATIONAL POLICE AND SAVAK FORM COORDINATING COMMISSION TO DEAL WITH HASHISH TRAFFIC

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TO EUROPE) AND FOR BYING SMALL QUANTITIES OF SPECIAL EQUIPMENT (E. G. IF WE CAN FIND SUITABLE EQUIPMENT, WE WILL RECOMMEND GOI BUY SMALL NUMBER OF PORTABLE TRUCK SCALES TO PERMIT QUICK WEIGHT CHECKS OF SUPPOSEDLY EMPTY TRUCKS ENTERING FROM AFGHANISTAN). WE WILL HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR EQUIPPING AND ORGANIZING NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE BUREAU IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, ONCE BUREAUCRATIC CLIMATE PERMITS CONSULTATIONS TO BEGIN (SEE PARA 4 BELOW).

3. RE PARA 6 (C). COMPLETION OF GULF SURVEY HAS BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE BNDD AGENT REQUIRED TO ATTEND TRIAL IN US BUT WE HOPE IT CAN BE COMPLETED BY MID- APRIL.

4. RE PARA 6 (E). ESTABLISHMENT OF INTELLIGENCE BUREAU IS BUREAUCRATIC HOT POTATO. TNFORCEMENT AGENCIES INCLUDING MINISTRY OF HEALTH RESENT APPARENT INVASION OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES BY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR CIVILAIN OFFICIALS AND LATTER HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNWILLING TO SURFACE FACT THAT PROJECT APPROVED. IF AND WHEN THEY DO ANDWE ARE ABLE TO DISCUSS PLANS WITH THEM , WE WILL RECOMMEND MODEST BEGINNING. WE THINK IT LIKELY NOT MORE THAT 3 OFFICIALS WOULD BE SENT TO US BY GOI AT START OF PROGRAM.

5. RE PARA 6 (H). WE UNDERSTAND PROBLEMS OF PRIORITIES AND FUNDING AND DO NOT WISH TO PUSH FOR REGIONAL CENTER UNLESS IT APPEARS COST EFFECTIVE IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER PROJECTS BEFORE UNFDAC. IT IS, HOWEVER, LONG LEAD- TIME ITEM. IF UNFDAC BELIEVES IT WILL EVENTUALLY SUPPORT PROPOSAL, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO START IRANIANS AND OTHERS CONCERNED THINKING ABOUT DETAILS OF CONCEPT REASONABLY SOON.

6. RE PARA 7. WE BELIEVE THAT GOI WOULD BE WILLING IN PRICIPLE TO PAY FOR ADDITIONAL ADVISER AND EQUIPMENT, ALTHOUGH OUR EXPERIENCE IN OTHER FIELDS IS THAT USG- PROVIDED ADVISERS ARE USUALLY TOO EXPENSIVE FOR GOI. WE WOULD WANT FAIRLY SPECIFIC PROPOSAL IN HAND BEFORE DISCUSSING WITH GOI. RELATIONSHIP OF US ADVISER TO UNREHABILI TATION ADVISER NORMAN WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT TO AVOID POSSIBLE CONFLICTS.

7. NEW PROJECTS: BNDD REGION 19 FUNDED TRAVEL OF IRANIAN OFFICER ON FIRST EUROPEAN INVESTIGATION TRIP. WE BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THIS PRACTICE FOR AT LEAST TWO MORE TRIPS TO ASSURE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IRANIAN AGENCIES COMPLETELY CONVINCED OF VALUE OF SUCH TRIPS AND HAVE HAD TIME TO BUDGET FOR FUTURE TRIPS. MOREOVER, FOR REASONS NOTED IN NEXT PARAGRAPH WE THINK IT WOULD BE IN US INTEREST TO MAKE FUNDING OF TRAVEL OF IRANIANS ON SUCH MISSIONS REGULAR PART OF PROGRAM.

8. FUNDING: (A) EXCEPT IN SPECIAL CASES SUCH AS EUROPEAN INVESTIGATION WHERE SMALL AMOUNT OF "SEED MONEY" NEEDED TO INTEREST GOI IN NEW PROJECTS WE CONSIDER IT COMPLETELY REALISTIC TO EXPECT GOI IN FUTURE TO PAY FOR EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES US MAY PROVIDE, AS IT ALREADY IS DOING. ONLY ITEMS THAT HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN GIVEN TO IRANIANS IN NARCOTICS FIELD SINCE NCAP STARTED IN 1971 ARE SMALL QUANTITY OF NARCO-TEST KITS; NIGHT SCOPES AND MOTORCYCLES WERE PROVIDED FOR TESTING ON LOAN BASIS. AS FOR COSTS OF IN-COUNTRY TRAINING, STATE A-9631 OF SEPT 25, 1972 SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR USG SERVICES FOR BNDD AND CUSTOMS SHORT-TERM IN-COUNTRY COURSES. QUESTION OF GOI WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR SUCH COURSES HAS NEVER ARISEN. (B) EUROPEAN INVESTIGATION IS OF AT LEAST AS MUCH BENEFIT TO US AS TO GOI SINCE IT DIRECTLY ATTACKS SOURCE OF HASHISH FOR US TROOPS IN EUROPE, HAS UNCOVERED INDICATIONS THAT HASHISH SMUGGLED BY IRANIANS IS GETTING INTO CHANNEL TO US (TO BE COVERED IN GREATER DETAIL IN SEPARATE MESSAGE) AND IS DESIGNED TO INTERDICT IN ADVANCE POTENTIAL OPIATES CHANNEL. FIRST TRIP IN THIS INVESTIGATION HAS DEMONSTRATED ACCURACY OF BELIEF THAT PARTICIPATION OF EXPERIENCED IRANIAN OFFICIAL IS REQUIRED IF INTERROGATION OF IRANIAN SMUGGLERS IS TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS. BY PAYING FOR TRAVEL OF IRANIAN INTERROGATOR, AND TRAVEL EXPENSES ONLY, US IS IN EFFECT PURCHASING SERVICE FROM GOI AT MINIMUM COST. US FUNDING OF JOINT US-IRANIAN INVESTIGATION TEAM TRAVEL ALSO ASSURES US OF QUICKEST POSSIBLE ACCESS TO INFORMATION OBTAINED; IF INVESTIGATION BECOMES UNILATERAL GOI PROJECT, INFORMATION WE OBTAIN ON ITS RESULTS MAY BE DELAYED OR INCOMPLETE. FOR THESE REASONS WE BELIEVE CONTINUED U.S. FUNDING AS PART OF REGULAR NCAP OF TRAVEL BY IRANIAN AS MEMBER OF JOINT TEAM WOULD BE JUSTIFIED.

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